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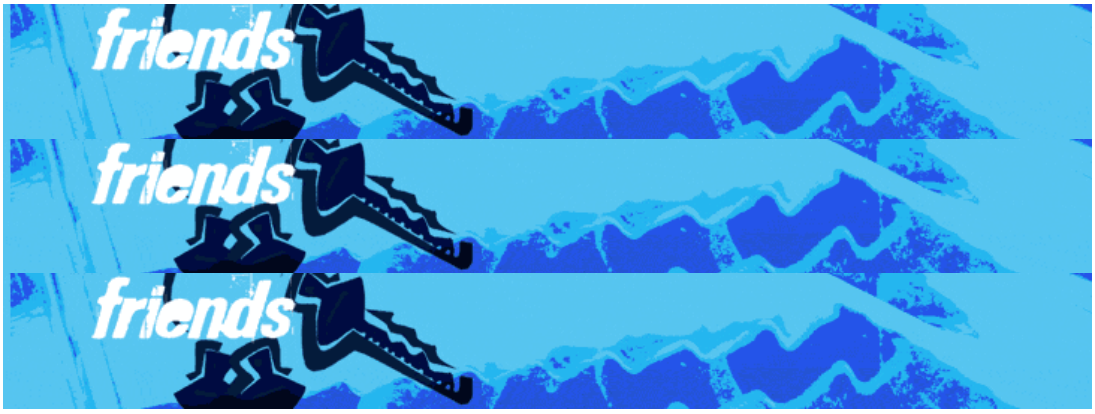

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Sunday, September 8, 2013

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CHOP-CHOP, CONFUSION, SCHISM AND GREED

don enter siddon look so."

"Why, which time? What make you enter siddon look?"

"You no see as the people dey kick one another at the convention!"

"Which convention be that? Oh, the chaotic convention of thieves in Abuja? The gathering of thieves with huge police protection in tow. Imagine the police protecting thieves and looters!?"

"That is democracy at work."

"Was Baba there, did Baba attend the convention in person?"

"The person that Baba brought from Yenagoa was there running the show."

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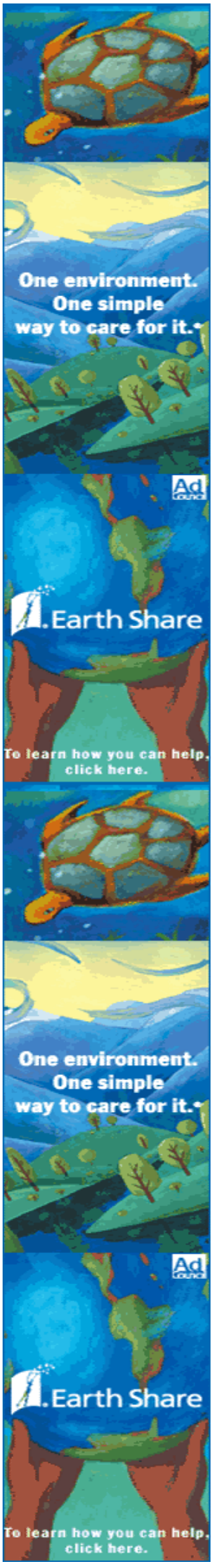
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"Ah, the kindergarten Baba went to bring from Yenagoa to come and chop? It seems the

man is very determined to chop and quench and chop it alone!"

"It is not true he is chopping it alone; he has invited some of his friends and close associates, men and women from his area to leave the creek and to come inside house, and come and chop."

"Somebody was invited to come and chop and he is kicking out the people he met inside the chop-chop house?"

"He is trying to spread the chop-chop to his own area."

"And could that also be the reason why his native woman friend is dishing out millions of dollars to thugs and miscreants from that area to oversea the security of pipelines?"

"I guess he is just using dogs to watch over the meat, smart eh?"

"I disagree with you. A thief can be good at stealing, but can he also be good at watching over the goods? I very much doubt that.

"I ask again: was Baba at the meeting, the gathering of thieves in Abuja?"

"Many Babas were there. The Baba from the Niger Delta came, but I did not notice his new wife. The Delta Baba had sworn that the man from Yenagoa will remain the village chief. I think the Baba from Lagos, the original Omo Eko was also there with his Wafe wife, and so was the Edo Baba, the ex-cop and now ex-fixer. He is happy to be the lighting rod of the party."

"Just imagine that, one Baba is a basket mouth and a rough rider, another Baba turned the NPA into his piggy bank and he is now an ex-convict, and the third Baba , um, he oversaw roads and highways for some years, spent billions but built no roads, no highway, nothing. This is a party like no other."

"It is the party in whom the people are happy."

"Happy that their youths are locked out of universities? Or happy that looters are walking our streets like heroes and heroines freshly minted with Ghana-must-go bags of foreign currencies?"

"Heroes are heroes and they are making a difference."

"Yes they are - punching away at each other to control and fill seats reserved for their districts, and hell bent on grabbing the cash allotted to the district. An unending drama served in full colour, obscenity, shock and puzzle to the amazement of the masses."

"But where was Baba, the erstwhile king maker and custodian of the party? Where was he who made chicanery look like grand statesmanship and now found himself being outdone by creek-clever double-dealers, criminals, guile-smart thieves?"

"I don't know the Baba you are asking for; I have mentioned the three Babas who are well known to me. The party is in fact full of Babas anyway."

"And nearly all of them are talented thieves, double-dealers and selfish people."

"I do not think all of them are thieves."

"The culture of the party is vile and only looters are on board, so you do not expect to find decent people among them."

"The village head is a decent man."

"The village head? The same whose brother suffered a stroke and never recovered after beholding the fruits of his brother's hard work within a few months in the palace? Or is it the oil deals he's involved in and which smell all over him?"

"He is doing his best for the village."

"Exactly the reason why he should not be where he is, his best is only good for the kindergarten. He has brought chaos and anarchy, introduced a kleptocracy into the way things are done, and he is heading for a disastrous end."

"I beg to disagree with you."

"Disagree if you must, but you and I know that the chop-chop is about to end. Discord and division are now the only items that are constant in the party, and the centre can no longer hold. At least we all saw the punch-fest that took place in the name of convention."

"You know it is a big party and all large organizations experience this all the time."

"For one, it is no longer a big party, never has been and never will be, and the decent men have dumped the party, moved on and formed a new party. The party is broken and the calabash smashed and wrecked into bits and pieces."

"The village head is arranging peace meetings and he...."

"Peace meeting with whom? The very person who destroyed the party and broke its peace is now arranging peace meetings? It is too late for that now and most of the district heads are no longer with him; they left when they realized that their village head suffers from madness and has just one agenda - the sit-tight, do nothing, grab-everything agenda. At least some of the people in that group are principled and decent, and decent men cannot reside in the same boat with evil, drunken men, men drunk on power and ogogoro. God knows what else they drink in the palace!

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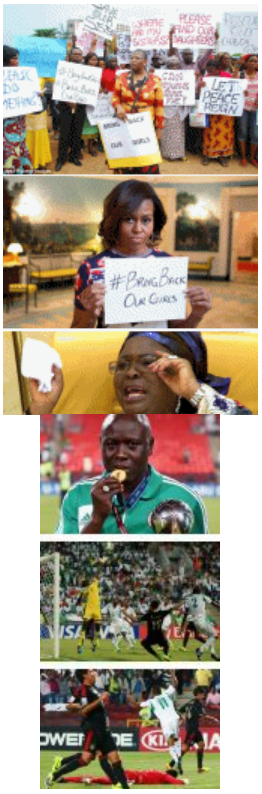

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"He is still very much the village head."

"Not anymore, not after many district heads have disowned him, are ignoring him, spitting in his face and telling him to go to hell. The village voters are going to nail his coffin very soon and dance on his grave too."

"He is going to win by a landslide at the election."

"Landslide, did you say? The land will shift and swallow him, Oronto, Diezani, Seriake, Orubebe, Kiagbodo, Okupe, and the others in his cabal of thieves and looters with him. Are they ready to rig the elections?"

"They do not have to rig the elections to retain control over the village."

I am weary of your defense of the schmuck. He will do anything; he is a desperate man, particularly after he's hit the bottles and the spirits are pushing him around."

"He conducted himself at the stakeholders meeting and won their support to be returned as village chief."

"Did you say village thief?"

"I said village chief."

"The meeting of the shareholders ended in a chair-throwing spree, and you said the meeting ended well?"

"It ended with an endorsement of the chief for another term."

"That meeting ended in chaos. No dividend for any shareholder, not even bonus shares, and just a few board members and their errand boys, side kicks are enjoying the chop-chop and you swear the meeting ended well?"

"It did, it ended well."

"Even with the split and the fall out of more than 20 village senators and seven district heads?"

"All is well in the largest political party in this continent."

"In their dream, even thieves dream big and fool themselves."

"The great party is very much in control."

"In control of what? Oh, in control of oil dollar, oil subsidy loot, oil blocks shared among the cabal and held in trust, and every other thing they can grab? Everyday is for the thief, but the owner's one day is around the corner, trust me."

"Nigerians are lucky to have the chief."

"I don't understand?"

"I said Naija people are lucky, in fact fortunate to have the chief."

"Is that so? Show me what that luck has brought the people. Oh wait, I know the gains of this luck: university closure, unemployment, looting of oil funds, billions in budgetary allocations for food, cars, planes, limousines, SUVs, travel, and overseas treatment for the palace. Tell me what exactly is in all these for the people?"

"They have the chief and his princess to look after them."

"Which princess, do you mean the mermaid-in-chief? All we have seen her do is make people's lives miserable as she goes around rolling all over the place. They had better get a crane to move her around and save the people the traffic jam she's known for everywhere she venture into. She wants to feel big and act big! The chief was once a shildren! Please give me a break."

"You can have your break because the village chief is on break. He's gone on foreign trip overseas."

"Even with federal universities still on strike and doctors starting a fresh round of strike your greedy, selfish, up to no good chief has gone overseas again? It shows how useless and hopeless the man is."

"He is not useless, he is on official business."

"Official business my you know what! What more evidence of selfishness and a lack of commitment to the well being of the people do you need? I am fed up with this hopeless chief. I need to take care of more important things. This chop-chop will end soon."

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